

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. - 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) A tubing connection arrangement comprising:
a first expandable tubing section defining a threaded male portion having lead and back thread flanks; and
a second expandable tubing section defining a threaded female portion having lead and back thread flanks, the first and second expandable tubing sections being engageable with one another;
the back thread flanks of the threaded male and female portions being disposed at an acute angle with respect to respective main thread axes such that the respective thread portions are angled away from an adjacent end of the respective tubing section; wherein the lead thread flanks of the threaded male portion are disposed at an angle different from that of the lead thread flanks of the threaded female portion.

25. (Previously Presented) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 24, wherein the acute angle is between 40° and 90°.

26. (Previously Presented) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 25, wherein the acute angle is approximately 83°.

27. – 84. (Cancelled)

85. (Previously Presented) A tubing connection arrangement comprising:
a first expandable tubing section defining a male portion; and
a second expandable tubing section defining a female portion, the first and second expandable tubing sections being engageable with one another the second expandable tubing section including a restraining member for restraining part of the

other expandable tubing section upon expansion of the section, the restraining member extending from a distal end of the second tubular and including an area of reduced thickness permitting flexible movement of the restraining member about the area of reduced thickness, wherein the first expandable tubing section includes a tapered shoulder for cooperating with a corresponding tapered shoulder of the second expandable tubing section and the shoulder comprises a face of the respective expandable tubing section and the shoulders of the first and second expandable tubing sections are adapted to define a gap between their respective tapered surfaces when the first and second expandable tubing sections are engaged and before expansion of the connection arrangement.

86. (Previously Presented) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 85, wherein the gap is adapted to close on expansion of the connection arrangement to bring the tapered surfaces into contact.

87. (Previously Presented) A tubing connection arrangement comprising:
a first expandable tubing section defining a male portion;
a second expandable tubing section defining a female portion, the first and second expandable tubing sections being engageable with one another; and
the second expandable tubing section including a non threaded restraining member extending from a distal end thereof for restraining part of the first expandable tubing section, the restraining member including a hinge about which the restraining member is adapted to bend upon expansion of a portion of the first expandable tubing section, wherein the restraining member comprises a separate component coupled to the respective expandable tubing section to form the hinge therebetween.

88. (Previously Presented) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 87, wherein the restraining member comprises a sleeve.

89. (Previously Presented) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 87, wherein the restraining member comprises a plurality of arms.

90. (Currently Amended) A tubing connection arrangement comprising:
a first expandable tubing section having a threaded male portion with lead and back thread flanks; and
a second expandable tubing section having a threaded female portion with lead and back thread flanks, wherein the lead thread flanks of the threaded male portion are disposed at an angle different from that of the lead thread flanks of the threaded female portion, wherein the lead thread flanks of the threaded male and female portions are rectilinear.

91. (Previously Presented) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 90, wherein the back thread flanks of the threaded male and female portions being disposed at an acute angle with respect to respective main thread axes such that the respective thread portions are angled away from an adjacent end of the respective tubing section.

92. (Previously Presented) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 91, wherein the acute angle is between 40° and 90°.

93. (Previously Presented) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 92, wherein the acute angle is approximately 83°.

94. (Previously Presented) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 90, wherein one of the tubing sections includes a restraining member for restraining part of the other expandable tubing section.

95. - 97. (Cancelled)

98. (Previously Presented) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 90, wherein the lead thread flanks of the threaded male portion are disposed at 45° with respect to a main thread axis.

99. (Currently Amended) A tubing connection comprising:
a first expandable tubing section having a threaded male portion with lead and back thread flanks; and
a second expandable tubing section having a threaded female portion with lead and back thread flanks, wherein the lead thread flanks of the threaded male portion are disposed at an angle different from that of the lead thread flanks of the threaded female portion and the back thread flanks of the threaded portions are configured such that the respective threaded portions are angled away from an adjacent end of the respective tubing section, whereby the back thread flanks on the threaded male and female portions are configured to ensure the tubing connection remains engaged as the tubing connection moves from a first diameter prior to expansion to a second larger diameter after expansion.

100. (Previously Presented) The tubing connection as claimed in claim 99, wherein the threaded portions are disposed at an acute angle with respect to a respective main thread axes.

Please add the following new claims:

101. (New) A tubing connection arrangement comprising:
a first expandable tubing section having a threaded male portion with lead and back thread flanks; and
a second expandable tubing section having a threaded female portion with lead and back thread flanks, wherein the lead thread flanks of the threaded male portion are disposed at an angle different from that of the lead thread flanks of the threaded female portion, wherein the first expandable tubing section includes a tapered shoulder for cooperating with a corresponding tapered shoulder of the second expandable tubing section.

102. (New) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 101, wherein the shoulder on each tubing section is adapted to define a gap when the first and second expandable tubing sections are engaged and before expansion of the connection arrangement.

103. (New) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 102, wherein the gap is adapted to close on expansion of the connection arrangement to bring the tapered shoulders into contact.

104. (New) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 101, wherein the first expandable tubing section includes first and second axially spaced shoulders for cooperating with corresponding first and second axially spaced shoulders of the second expandable tubing section.

105. (New) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 104, wherein each expandable tubing section includes a first shoulder comprising a face on an axial end thereof and a radially extending shoulder member defining a second shoulder.

106. (New) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 101, wherein the shoulder comprises a face of the respective expandable tubing section.

107. (New) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 106, wherein the face is formed on an axial end of the respective tubing section.

108. (New) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 101, wherein the expandable tubing sections include a radially extending shoulder member defining the shoulder.

109. (New) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 101, wherein one of the first and second expandable tubing sections includes a restraining member for restraining part of the other expandable tubing section.

110. (New) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 109, wherein the restraining member extends from an axial end of the second expandable tubing section.

111. (New) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 110, wherein the restraining member extends from the female portion of the second expandable tubing section.

112. (New) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 109, wherein the restraining member is adapted to extend in an axial direction along an outer surface of part of the first expandable tubing section.

113. (New) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 109, wherein the restraining member is adapted to extend in an axial direction along an outer surface of part of the second expandable tubing section.

114. (New) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 109, wherein the restraining member comprises a sleeve.

115. (New) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 114, wherein the sleeve comprises slotted tubing.

116. (New) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 114, wherein the sleeve defines a number of separate arms or fingers.

117. (New) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 24, wherein the lead thread flanks of the threaded male and female portions are rectilinear.

118. (New) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 24, wherein the back thread flanks of the threaded male and female portions define a hook profile.

119. (New) The tubing connection arrangement as claimed in claim 118, wherein the hook profile is configured to ensure the tubing connection remains engaged as the tubing connection moves from a first diameter prior to expansion to a second larger diameter after expansion.

120. (New) The tubing connection as claimed in claim 99, wherein the lead thread flanks of the threaded male and female portions are rectilinear.

121. (New) A method of coupling expandable tubing sections together, the method comprising:

providing a first expandable tubing section defining a threaded male portion having respective lead and back thread flanks;

providing a second expandable tubing section defining a female threaded portion having respective lead and back thread flanks, the lead thread flanks of the threaded male portion disposed at an angle different from that of the lead thread flanks of the threaded female portion, wherein the lead thread flanks of the threaded male and female portions are rectilinear; and

coupling the first and second expandable tubing sections together to form a tubing connection.

122. (New) The method as claimed in claim 121, further including expanding the tubing section, whereby the back thread flanks on the threaded male and female portions are configured to ensure the tubing connection remains engaged as the tubing connection moves from a first diameter to a second larger diameter after expansion.